

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Second Extraordinary Session, 2003
4

As Engrossed: H1/12/04
A Bill

Call Item 4

HOUSE BILL 1091

5 By: Representative Judy
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO REMOVE NONACADEMIC BARRIERS TO ACADEMIC
10 SUCCESS THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FAMILY
11 RESOURCE CENTERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12

Subtitle

13 THE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS ACT.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, is amended to add an*
20 *additional subchapter to read as follows:*

21 6-18-1401. Title.

22 This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Family Resource
23 Centers Act".
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25 6-18-1402. Definitions.

26 For the purpose of this subchapter:

27 (1) "Board" means the State Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention
28 Board;

29 (2) "Core component" means one (1) of the activities or services
30 for children and their families provided by a family resource center pursuant
31 to the school district's grant application;

32 (3) "Family resource center" means a center in or near a
33 priority elementary school;

34 (4) "National school lunch students" mean those students from
35 low socioeconomic backgrounds as indicated by eligibility for free or
36 reduced-priced meals under the National School Lunch Act as calculated on



1 October 1 of each year and submitted to the Department of Education;

2 (5) "Optional component" means one (1) of the activities or
3 services for children or their families provided by a family resource center
4 to satisfy unique community needs;

5 (6) "Parent" means a parent, legal guardian, or person standing
6 in loco parentis; and

7 (7) "Priority elementary school" means a public school that
8 meets the following requirements:

9 (A) Has one (1) or more of grades kindergarten through six
10 (K-6); and

11 (B)(i) Has fifty percent (50%) or more of the enrolled
12 students that are national school lunch students based on data from the 2002-
13 2003 school year; or

14 (ii) Has fifty percent (50%) or more of the students
15 that are performing below proficient on any or all benchmark examinations
16 based on examination results from the 2002-2003 school year.

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18 6-18-1403. Administration.

19 This subchapter shall be administered by the State Child Abuse and
20 Neglect Prevention Board as created under § 9-30-104.

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22 6-18-1404. Duties.

23 (a) The State Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board shall have the
24 following duties:

25 (1) To determine which schools are priority elementary schools
26 under this subchapter;

27 (2) To review grant applications and to award grants to school
28 districts for family resource centers;

29 (3)(A) To formulate and assist with the implementation of an
30 implementation plan to establish a minimum of ten (10) family resource
31 centers.

32 (B) The family resource centers shall be designed to meet
33 the following goals:

34 (i) To remove nonacademic barriers to student
35 success in school;

36 (ii) To enhance the abilities of students to succeed

1 in school; and

2 (iii) To meet the needs of children and their
3 families;

4 (4) To monitor the family resource centers;

5 (5) To modify the implementation plans as necessary;

6 (6) To promulgate rules and forms for the administration of this
7 subchapter;

8 (7) To employ administrative or training staff as needed;

9 (8) To create local advisory groups; and

10 (9) Other duties as determined by the board.

11 (b) This subchapter is the framework for schools to address student
12 poverty issues and to remove nonacademic barriers that hinder student
13 performance. A school district may fund programs or services under this
14 subchapter with monies received from the Public School Fund or its successor
15 fund for poverty index funding, National School Lunch Act student funding,
16 national school lunch students funding, or other funding for students
17 eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program.

18 (c) On or before October 1 of each year, the chairperson of the board
19 or his or her designee shall report to the House Interim Committee on Aging,
20 Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs and Senate Interim
21 Committee on Children and Youth regarding the status of the development of
22 the family resource centers and the outcomes achieved at each operational
23 family resource center.

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25 6-18-1405. Purposes.

26 (a) Family resource centers shall be designed to remove nonacademic
27 barriers to success and to enhance the abilities of the students to succeed
28 in school.

29 (b) Students and families who are the most economically disadvantaged
30 shall have priority status for receiving services at the family resource
31 centers.

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33 6-18-1406. Implementation plans.

34 (a) The implementation plan developed by the State Child Abuse and
35 Neglect Prevention Board with input from the local advisory groups, the local
36 school district, and the priority elementary school shall include an effort

1 to implement a network of family resource centers across the state.

2 (b) The family resource centers shall be located in or near each
3 priority elementary school.

4 (c) The implementation plan shall promote identification and
5 coordination of existing resources.

6 (d) The implementation plan may include the following components for
7 each site:

8 (1)(A) Information and referral activities for off-site services
9 to assist participants in having their basic needs met.

10 (B) Information and referral activities provide
11 participants with a point of entry to available support networks.

12 (C) Examples of off-site service referrals include, but
13 are not limited to, the following:

14 (i) Child care centers;

15 (ii) Health care providers;

16 (iii) Counseling services;

17 (iv) Legal aid;

18 (v) Food banks;

19 (vi) Housing and domestic violence shelters;

20 and

21 (vii) Federal agencies, state agencies, or other
22 entities that provide benefits or services that the participants may need;

23 (2)(A) Parenting education services to promote the sharing of
24 information, strategies, and tools to help parents with the difficult job of
25 being parents.

26 (B) Examples of parenting activities include, but are not
27 limited to, the following:

28 (i) Group-based parent education classes;

29 (ii) Providing credentialed guest speakers; or

30 (iii) Making materials on parenting issues available
31 to parents through lending libraries or take home materials;

32 (3)(A) Child development activities to strengthen the parent and
33 child bond and promote optimal development of a child by assisting parents in
34 the utilization, understanding, and application of early child development
35 activities.

36 (B) Child development activities shall emphasize child

1 development during the earliest years, specifically age zero to three (0-3).

2 (C) Child development activities shall address the
3 following:

4 (i) Healthy physical development;

5 (ii) Cognitive development;

6 (iii) Social development; or

7 (iv) Emotional development.

8 (D) Specific strategies to promote child development
9 within family resource centers may include the following:

10 (i) Referring or establishing quality childcare or
11 after-school care programs;

12 (ii) Providing developmental screenings;

13 (iii) Educating parents about developmental
14 milestones;

15 (iv) Providing literacy and pre-literacy activities
16 such as story time;

17 (v) Providing play groups or "make and take"
18 activities for young children; or

19 (vi) Establishing toy or book lending libraries.

20 (E) Child development activities may be conducted at the
21 family resource centers or through home visiting programs;

22 (4) Life skills education to provide an opportunity for
23 participants to strengthen skills and competencies that will help them
24 succeed in everyday tasks to include, but not be limited to, the following:

25 (A) Developing and maintaining a household budget;

26 (B) Shopping for and preparing nutritious meals;

27 (C) Securing and maintaining employment;

28 (D) Conflict resolution skills;

29 (E) Goal setting;

30 (F) Time management;

31 (G) Decision making; or

32 (H) Stress management;

33 (5)(A) Family literacy to connect education for children with
34 literacy instruction for their parents.

35 (B) Family literacy activities may include the following:

36 (i) Adult literacy instruction for parents;

1 (ii) General education diploma instruction for
2 parents;

3 (iii) Child literacy programs; or

4 (iv) Parent and child literacy activities; and

5 (6)(A) Informal network building to assist families in
6 developing a network of mutual support to include caring, resource sharing,
7 emotional support, and social support.

8 (B) The informal network building program shall be
9 designed to promote activities to help parents get to know one another, raise
10 their social capital, and reduce their isolation.

11 (C) Examples of informal network building programs include
12 the following:

13 (i) Support groups;

14 (ii) Social activities;

15 (iii) Family celebrations;

16 (iv) Recreational activities;

17 (v) Holiday gatherings; or

18 (vi) Newsletters.

19 (e) The board and the local advisory group shall agree which of the
20 components in subsection (d) of this section are core components or optional
21 components based on the individual implementation plan for each priority
22 elementary school's family resource center.

23 (f)(1) The board shall determine which schools meet the definition of
24 priority elementary schools under this subchapter by July 1, 2004.

25 (2) The Department of Education and the State Board of Education
26 shall provide all information necessary in the format necessary for the board
27 to meet the deadline under this subsection (f).

28 (g)(1) The board shall select a minimum of ten (10) eligible priority
29 elementary schools for which an implementation plan shall be completed.

30 (2) The board shall complete its implementation plan for a
31 minimum of ten (10) priority elementary schools on or before December 1,
32 2004.

33 (h) On or before August 1, 2005, family resource centers shall be
34 established in or adjacent to a minimum of ten (10) priority elementary
35 schools.

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1 6-18-1407. Grant program.

2 (a) A grant program is established to provide financial assistance to
3 school districts with priority elementary schools that establish family
4 resource centers.

5 (b) Local school districts shall submit to the State Child Abuse and
6 Neglect Prevention Board the grant applications and plans for their family
7 resource centers by March 1, 2005.

8 (c) Beginning July 1, 2005, the board shall award grants to school
9 districts that establish family resource centers at priority elementary
10 schools in their districts.

11 (d)(1) The board or its designee shall develop a grant application
12 process that includes the following:

13 (A) An application for a grant under this subchapter;

14 (B) Instructions about the grant process; and

15 (C) Scoring procedures to determine the award of the
16 grants.

17 (2)(A) The grant application process shall include the
18 preparation of a grant application package that is distributed to each
19 priority elementary school and the superintendent of the school district
20 containing each priority elementary school.

21 (B) The board shall distribute the grant application
22 package no later than December 15, 2004.

23 (3) The grant application process shall be straightforward and
24 require a minimum amount of paperwork.

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26 6-18-1408. Local advisory councils.

27 (a) Each family resource center shall have a local advisory council
28 that has a central role in designing and delivering services.

29 (b) Members of the local advisory council shall be representative of
30 the diversity of the students in the priority elementary school that is
31 served.

32 (c)(1) Except for the initial chairperson, the members shall determine
33 annually and by majority vote who shall serve as chairperson.

34 (2) The superintendent of the priority elementary school shall
35 appoint the initial chairperson for the purpose of calling the first
36 organizational meeting.

1 (3) The initial chairperson shall call an organizational meeting
2 no fewer than thirty (30) days after all of the members are appointed.

3 (d)(1) The council shall meet at such times and places that the
4 chairperson deems necessary but no meetings shall be held outside of the
5 county where the priority elementary school is located.

6 (2) A quorum is not required for the council to transact
7 business.

8 (3) All actions of the council shall be by a majority vote of
9 all members who are present.

10 (e) The local school district shall provide meeting facilities for the
11 council.

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13 6-18-1409. Family resource centers.

14 (a) Each family resource center shall have the following:

15 (1) A full-time coordinator;

16 (2) At least fifteen (15) hours a week of social work services;

17 and

18 (3) Sufficient staff to implement the plan submitted with the
19 grant application.

20 (b) The services provided at the family resource centers shall take
21 into consideration the schedule of the student and the student's family to
22 provide discreet after-hour services where appropriate.

23 (c) The family resource centers shall work with the local advisory
24 council to give the members notice of all activities and needs of the family
25 resource centers.

26
27 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
28 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the Arkansas Supreme Court in
29 Lake View District No. 25 v. Huckabee, 351 Ark. 31 (2002) declared our
30 current public education system to be unconstitutional because it is both
31 inequitable and inadequate; that the Arkansas Supreme Court has set forth the
32 test for a constitutional system to be one in which the state has an
33 "absolute duty" to provide an "equal opportunity to an adequate education";
34 that the Arkansas Supreme Court has instructed the General Assembly to
35 correct these constitutional infirmities with our public education system;
36 and that this act is immediately necessary to provide additional resources to

1 the poorest and most disadvantaged students in the state that face countless
2 nonacademic barriers in their quest for academic success. Therefore, an
3 emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for
4 the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become
5 effective on:

- 6 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;
7 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
8 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
9 bill; or
10 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
11 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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13 /s/ Judy
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